

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 70 are pending in the application. The Office Action (Action) notes that claims 1 through 10 are generic to all of the species set forth below. The Action has stated that a restriction to the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species A: Claims 11-22 (density from 0.01-0.31 g/cc and absorbency from 6-9 g);

Species B: Claims 23,25-34 are generic to species B (density from 0.01-0.32 g/cc and absorbency from 9-12 g). Claim 24 is a further species of species B and claims 35-46 are another species of species B. Claim 24 is referred to as species B1 and claims 35-46 are referred to as species B2. Claim 24 recites a density from 0.15-0.3, whereas claims 35-46 require a density of 0.01-0.05 (or 0.02-0.035). The density ranges for claim 24 and claims 35-46 do not overlap and are noted by the Action as being distinct from each other;

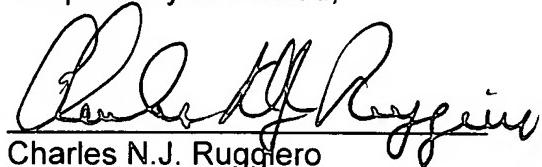
Species C: Claims 47-58 (density from 0.01-0.35 g/cc and absorbency from 12-15 g); and

Species D: Claims 59-70 (density from 0.01-0.39 g/cc and absorbency from 15-18 g).

To comply fully with the restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of species B and B2, namely claims 23, 25-34 (species B) and claims 35-46 (species B2). Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant's request reconsideration of those non-elected claims in species A, B1, C and D.

June 1, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N.J. Ruggiero
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,468
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, LLP
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel. (203)327-4500
Fax. (203)327-6401